

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /094 W
-----037804 160147Z /62

R 141420Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1091
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1318

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, DM, GB
SUBJ: BENIN-GABON DISPUTE

REF: COTONOU 1267

1. PRESIDENT TOLBERT ARRIVED IN COTONOU SEPT 14 FOR ONE-DAY "FRIENDLY VISIT" AMID SPECULATION THAT HE IS HERE TO MEDIATE BENIN-GABON DISPUTE.
2. IN PAST WEEK PRESS AND RADIO HAVE TONED DOWN ATTACKS ON GABON, STRESSING RATHER REINTEGRATION OF THOSE EXPELLED FROM GABON INTO BENINOIS LIFE. THIS APPARENT ENDING OF PROPAGANDA BARRAGE IS ANOTHER SIGN THAT GPRB WOULD WELCOME FURTHER MEDIA-
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TION EFFORTS. STICKING POINT, HOWEVER, IS BENINESE APPARENT INSISTENCE ON REPARATIONS.

3. IN ADDITION TO TOLBERT, OBASANJO VERY LIKELY TRIED TO LEND GOOD OFFICES DURING HIS SEPT 9-11 VISIT HERE, MEDIATING FOR ERSTWHILE MEDIATOR SEKOU TOURE WHOM HE HAD VISITED FOLLOWING ABORTIVE CONAKRY RECONCILIATION MEETING. ZAIRE AMBASSADOR HERE

SAYS MAJOR REASON CONAKRY CONFERENCE FAILED THROUGHOUT WAS INTRANSIGENCE OF BENINESE WHO, WHILE SENDING DELEGATION TO CONAKRY, MADE IT KNOWN IN ADVANCE THAT REPARATIONS WOULD BE PRECONDITION OF TALKS WITH GABONESE. THIS PRECLUDED ATTENDENCE OF GABON DELEGATION AND CAUSED SOME BAD FEELING BETWEEN SEKOU, WHO COVETED MEDIATOR'S ROLE, AND KEREKOU. IN ANY CASE, ACCORDING TO ZAIRIAN, SEKOU, OBASANJO AND TOLBERT ARE ALL NOW LEANING ON KEREKOU TO DEOP INDEMNIFICATION DEMAND, PAVING WAY FOR HIGH-LEVEL BENIN-GABON MEETING. DAVISON

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Message Attributes

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